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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FAMINE CAMPAIGN ROUND UP

"THE TASK AHEAD"

In submitting to Congress the eighth quarterly report on operations of UNRRA, President Truman stated:

The Congress and the people of the United States may be proud of the contribution they have made to the rehabilitation of devastated countries through UNRRA, but we must also realize that the job has not been completed... At this time crops all over Europe are being harvested and, if weather conditions continue to be favorable, food reserves should be more adequate than in the past year. Nevertheless, despite prodigious efforts by the peoples of the liberated countries, agricultural production will still fall greatly below the prewar levels.

Here in the United States, we must continue our endeavors to conserve our food resources. Crops in the United States give promise of large yields, but the world food situation will be critical. Many countries will be forced to import food in excess of normal imports because full production has not yet been achieved. Prudence in the consumption of world food supplies is necessary.

The United States is aware of the fact that it may be necessary to find various methods of affording further assistance to some countries in 1947. To this end various agencies of this Government are completing plans so that proper solutions can be effected.

Having been largely successful in averting world tragedy during the most difficult period after the war, it would be doubly tragic if we were not prepared to meet the less-difficult task ahead. We must be ready with workable plans which will enable the war-devastated countries to face the future with confidence and success.

The report showed that UNRRA shipments from the U. S. as of June 30, totaled more than 9 million long tons with a value of \$1.2 billion. This tonnage represented about 72 percent of total world shipments and about 68 percent of their total value. U. S. appropriations for UNRRA total \$2.7 billion.

FAMINE IN RETROSPECT

Appearing in the New York Times recently was an article which seems tailor-made for this page: So here it is:

The most cheerful news item in the daily paper for some time has probably been generally overlooked, for the very good reason that it was not physically present in the printed page. But that is what makes it such good news. The subject is famine.

Almost everything else that is calculated to trouble men's minds and hearts is there in the newspaper -- tensions domestic and foreign, crisis upon crisis, war fears, atomic fears, bacteriological fears, shortages.

But practically never does one encounter famine in the news except in retrospect. So there is at least one thing which people are entitled to enter upon their record with a certain amount of satisfaction and even with pride; especially in this country, which has paid three-fourths of UNRRA's bills.

Hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved and a vast amount of suffering alleviated. We need look back less than a year to recall how heavy were the misgivings which weighed upon us. The world was bracing itself for famine casualties by the million. Today it is the general feeling that mass starvation has been licked everywhere in the world except possibly China and India, where conditions are, in the nature of things, almost insuperable.

We are not being excessively sentimental in assuming that Americans will find their meat and butter shortages more endurable because our own shortage news is not sharing the daily paper reports about starving women and children in Greece, Poland, Yugoslavia, China.

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FAO COMMISSION TO MEET OCTOBER 28.

The special commission created by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization at its recent Copenhagen meeting will convene in Washington, D. C., on October 28. During the next few months, the commission's work will be to develop specific recommendations on the kind of world program needed to solve the basic problems of widespread hunger and agricultural insecurity.

FAO Conference recommendations related to the 1946-47 world food situation included: (1) That all countries carry out as far as practicable the Washington meeting recommendations for economizing in the use of bread grains; (2) that all IEFC member countries report at least quarterly on what they are doing to implement the recommendations; (3) that consideration of urgent needs be paramount in world distribution of scarce foods; (4) that more consumer goods be made available as an incentive to primary producers, particularly in the Far East and Africa; (5) that the UNRRA Geneva resolution calling for special financial aid to enable countries heretofore helped by UNRRA to continue imports of food and essential agricultural production supplies be placed on the agenda of the United Nations Assembly; and (6) that maximum production of basic foods be encouraged during the 1947-48 season.

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GOOD PROGRESS IN GRAIN EXPORTS

U. S. grain and grain products for export during the October-December quarter of 1946 have been scheduled at 2,270,000 long tons. Exports scheduled from July through December represent approximately 55 percent of the 400-million-bushel goal for export from July 1, 1946, through June 30, 1947.

The October-December program includes 1,045,000 tons of wheat, 858,000 tons of flour (in terms of wheat equivalent), 253,500 tons of corn, 62,500 tons of oats, and 51,000 tons of grain sorghums. A carryover of 900,000 tons of grain from the preceding quarter will also be shipped.

The wheat (except quantities for UNRRA and other Latin American countries) will be supplied by the Production and Marketing Administration.

Flour, corn, oats, and grain sorghums (except quantities for UNRRA and U. S. Occupied Zones in Germany, Italy, Japan, and Korea) will be procured by claimants through commercial channels.

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FATS, OILS SHORTAGE TO CONTINUE

World output of fats and oils may not reach 1935-39 levels for 3 years or more because of certain factors, such as political unrest in Manchuria, which are restricting production.

Fats and oils available for international trade likewise are not expected to match prewar quantities for some years because several production areas, such as India, may consume a larger proportion of domestic output. On the other hand, import demand in some countries may be restricted by lack of purchasing power.

Total exports of fats, oils, and oilseeds from principal producing countries are estimated for 1946 at 2,990,000 short tons, compared with the 1935-39 average of 6,511,000. World import requirements are about double the supply for export.

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FARM OUTLOOK BROADCAST SET

World and domestic needs for farm products and indicated farm production goals for the year ahead will be highlighted in the "American Farmer" broadcast over the ABC network, 12:30 to 1:00 EST, Saturday, October 12.

Capping the USDA Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D. C., the broadcast will present these Department officials: L. A. Wheeler, Director Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; Bushrod Allin, Chairman, Department Outlook Board; M. L. Wilson, Director, Extension Service; and Robert H. Shields, Administrator, Production and Marketing Administration.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Here are gleanings about world agricultural production, as reported in Department of Agriculture reports:

- *** Argentina's second official estimate places the planted flaxseed area at 5,041,000 acres.
- *** Canada reports that recent evidence of more extensive frost damage to the wheat crop reduces the estimate of the exportable surplus by 15 to 25 million bushels. The current estimate of the exportable surplus is 250 to 260 million bushels.
- *** World rye production in 1946 is estimated at about 1,450 million bushels. This would be about 16 percent below the 1935-39 average, and only 5 percent larger than the small outturn a year ago.
- *** Egypt's 1946 wheat crop, reported at 42,725,000 bushels, is slightly smaller than the 1945 crop and somewhat below average. The grain sorghum crop is placed at about 25 million bushels, 15 percent less than the 1945 crop. Corn production is estimated at 62 million bushels, or about 10 percent above average.
- *** The Indian rice crop harvested last December and January is estimated at 1,962 million bushels, 6 percent above the prewar average. Rice shortages developed in India on account of lack of imports. Some rice imports have been obtained from Burma during 1946, but these are not sufficient to supply all the needs of the Bengal Province before the next harvest.
- *** World production of fats and oils may not reach the 1935-39 level for 3 years or longer. It may take some years to restore Manchurian soybean production and the Sumatra palm-oil output. Whale oil production is not expected to reach the prewar level. However, the expanded sunflower-seed production in Argentina is expected to continue, the U. S. lard and soybean production will probably remain above the 1935-39 level, and several countries may subsidize domestic production in order to reduce import requirements.
- *** Canada's fruit prospects are bright, with apple production indicated at nearly 16 million bushels (double the crop in 1945); pears estimated at 816,000 bushels; peaches at 2,086,000 bushels (33 percent above the 1945 crop); and grapes indicated at 72 million pounds (compared with 66 million last year.)

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:	A MARCH OF TIME movie on "The World Food Problem" has been re-	:
:	leased (October 3) for theater showings. It provides a vivid	:
:	presentation of conditions in famine-stricken countries and of	:
:	relief measures being taken by UNRRA and others. Shots of the	:
:	recent FAO conference in Copenhagen lend it timeliness.	:
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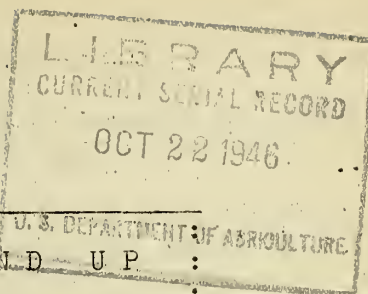
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INFORMATION SERVICE

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Review



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IEFC CONCERNED ABOUT WORLD FOOD FLOW

Formulation of a policy to reconcile barter and bilateral-trade agreements with recommendations for the international distribution of scarce food items is the job of a 6-nation subcommittee appointed by the International Emergency Food Council. The committee represents the United Kingdom, France, Norway, India, Czechoslovakia, and the United States.

IEFC is concerned in these agreements to the extent that they might interfere with the fulfillment of Council recommendations. Calling for greater cooperation among nations are such practices as the export of an imported commodity in short supply after some processing, and the shipping of a commodity in short supply to a nation which exports a similar or substitutable commodity.

Stating that effective international cooperation will be required in distributing food supplies as equitably as possible, D. A. Fitzgerald describes the road ahead in basic foodstuffs as follows:

Fats and Oils — Gap between the supply and the effective demand and basic nutritional needs will be wide. International trade will probably not exceed 3 million tons, compared with over 6 million tons in a prewar year.

Cereals — Importing countries would buy 35 million tons for food and feed, but exports are unlikely to exceed 25 million tons. This means continued bread rationing in importing countries, high extraction ratios, other limitations on using cereals for food consumption, and little progress in rehabilitating livestock production. Supplies will be sharply below requirements because of drastically reduced carryover stocks and unfavorable rice prospects.

Meat — European production in the next year will be about one-third below prewar; in Canada, Argentina, and the United States, production will probably be about 3 million tons above prewar, but below 1946.

Sugar — Still in short supply, though production is expected to be about 29.5 million tons, 10 percent better than last year.

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U. S. FOOD STILL NEEDED TO FIGHT WORLD HUNGER

In its report, "The Second Year of Peace," the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion has this to say about the world situation:

Some....urgent food problems must be solved by international measures. Supplies of sugar, and fats and oils will continue short for many months at least. This situation calls for continued controls over the use of these foods in the United States—including the rationing of sugar; for continued programs to maintain high domestic production of these world-scarce foods; and for further efforts to stimulate foreign production and international trade.

Food exports this year will again play a key role in the fight against famine and disease abroad. In spite of good weather in much of Europe, it will be necessary for the United States to supply considerable quantities of grain, and of some other foods.....

The President has recently appointed a Cabinet committee consisting of the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and State to maintain a continuous review of the world food situation and to recommend action which should be taken by this Government to fulfill its responsibilities in meeting the world demand for food.

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OBJECTIVES OF FAO PROPOSALS OUTLINED

Some major objectives of a permanent world food board proposed for consideration by the Food and Agriculture Organization, according to Sir John Boyd Orr, director-general of the organization, would be:

1. To prevent a disastrous slump, such as occurred in agriculture after the last war, by stabilizing prices of major agricultural products in the international market.
2. To build up reserves in years of good harvests against years of bad harvests—an essential feature of the stabilizing operation.
3. To promote measures for the development of agriculture and secondary industries in the undeveloped countries.
4. To sell unmarketable surpluses on special terms to countries which in their present stage of economic development cannot afford enough food to keep their people well and strong, thereby relieving governments and farmers of the surplus problem that bedeviled them in the interwar period.

Plans for a world food program and the kind of organization to carry it out will be studied by a special 16-nation commission of FAO, meeting in Washington on October 28. Results of the study will be reported to the 49 member nations of FAO and later considered by a full session of the organization.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF BRITISH AGRICULTURE

Dewey J. Harman, Director of the Production and Marketing Administration for Colorado, confirms the severe loss of grain suffered by the British this fall. Mr. Harman has just returned with a group of other Americans from a month's tour of the British Isles. According to conservative estimates there, about 40 percent of the wheat crop was lost because of rainy weather which started just as harvest of the comparatively large acreage was starting.

England needs badly to return much of her cropland to grass, Mr. Harman reports. But the price of plowing and fertilizing will make the return costly -- between \$55 and \$60 an acre, of which \$8 or \$10 would probably be paid by the Government.

With farms averaging a little less than 30 acres of tillable land, most farmers use a 6- or 7-year rotation plan. Small plots in various stages of rotation are in turn planted to such crops as turnips, potatoes, oats, and then grass for 3 or 4 years. There is a great need for more farm machinery.

Almost everything continues to be rationed in England, and most agricultural production is subsidized by the Government. There is little free marketing; farmers sell their products to the Government, which in turn handles marketing services and distribution to retailers at prices lower than those paid producers. Checks against usual production and marketing figures on individual farms helps guard against possible black markets. Farmers receive allowances from their own production for family consumption, but sometimes a part of the production -- such as half the meat from a slaughtered hog -- must be sold to the Government for other consumers.

About 20 percent of Britain's farm workers are prisoners of war, and 5 percent more are members of the Women's Land Army. Most farm work is done by workers, many of whom belong to a labor union, and they are hired to work just as others who belong to mining or other industrial unions. The "farmer" is the owner or operator, who usually serves as the manager of the farm.

County farmer-committees, appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, have wide authority. They check performance on the land, and may take over farms for operation or for renting to another farmer when the operator is not doing a good job. In such instances, title to the farm does not change hands, but the farm may be held until 1950, with rental being paid to the original operator. Methods of appeal are available to the farmer if he feels that he has been unjustly dispossessed.

WORLD COTTON SITUATION

World supplies of cotton in the 1946 crop year are now estimated at 42.0 million bales, 7.0 million less than in the peak year of 1939, and 4.3 million less than a year ago. The 1946 world crop of commercial cotton is indicated at 21.0 million bales, compared with 19.2 in 1945. If world consumption increases to around 27 million bales in the 1946 crop year and production runs about as estimated, the world carry-over will be reduced by around 6 million bales next August 1.

Cotton export trade has risen sharply since the war's end, with a larger proportion than in the war period moving from the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere. In the 1945 crop year, world consumption of all kinds of commercial cotton reached an estimated 23.2 million bales. France, Italy, a number of other European countries, and China were all able to expand consumption as compared with 1944-45. A further expansion of possibly as much as 3.5 million bales in total mill consumption in foreign countries is expected during the 1946-47 season.

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JAP'S IMPORTED FOOD ALLOCATIONS CUT

A deep cut in the amount of Allied foodstuffs allocated for distribution to the Japanese is reported in the press. Only 25,000 tons of imported staples, the smallest in nearly 5 months, has been authorized for release, and this is likely to be the last such distribution this year. Nearly all the 5,600 tons of imported canned foods for release in October have been earmarked for hospitals, orphanages, and similar institutions.

The Japanese Government has received controlled quantities of imported food, almost entirely from the United States, since late last year when famine threatened. This food was to be sold at prices below the open market prices and paid for eventually by Japanese exports.

The action taken is in line with the policy of cutting allotments of imports as the Japanese become able to depend on their own harvests for "minimum living requirements."

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